



# City of Cincinnati

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## GCWW STARTS PUMPING WATER TO BOONE COUNTY AND FLORENCE, KENTUCKY

Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) begins pumping water to Boone County and Florence, Kentucky residents this month via a pipe installed under the Ohio River. GCWW can pump 30 million gallons per day to 70,000 Boone County and Florence, Kentucky residents. Boone County and Florence officials signed a 29-year contract to purchase water from GCWW after determining that this was the best and most economical way to meet the growing water needs of their residents. This is one of the largest interstate drinking water agreements in the United States.

“We have a great relationship with Boone County and Florence. This is truly a win-win situation,” said David Rager, Director of Greater Cincinnati Water Works. “We appreciate the spirit of cooperation shown by Boone County and Florence Water Commissions in working with us to develop this innovative solution to meet their water needs.” For Ohio customers, the agreement allows GCWW to maintain reasonable rates and high quality water by spreading its fixed and regulatory compliance costs across a larger customer base. Rager stated that GCWW will utilize existing treatment capacity to provide water for these areas.

“The Boone County Water District and the City of Florence determined that purchasing water from Cincinnati would provide a considerable savings for their customers,” according to Dr. Ronald G. Crume, Chairman of the Boone-Florence Water Commission. “After determining that we would need additional water treatment capacity, we saw that purchasing water from GCWW was the best solution. We will receive a plentiful supply of water and our rates will be much lower than if we had chosen to build a new water treatment plant.”

“This is a very exciting project for us, but it is not the first Water Works tunnel under the Ohio River,” said David Rager. “Directional drilling, the latest technology, allowed us to save both time and money. In the 1890’s, when Water Works dug the first tunnel under the river to supply our treatment plant, it was dug by hand and took three years. The crews used compasses and some guesswork to guide their way. It’s pretty amazing that they were only a foot or two off when the two sides met. That tunnel is in excellent condition and is still used today.”

The pipeline to Boone County and Florence is 36 inches in diameter and 3,000 feet long. It was installed about 30 feet below the bottom of the Ohio River, west of downtown Cincinnati. It is part of a construction project that includes more than 30 miles of water main, a pump station, a storage reservoir, and three elevated storage tanks. The reservoir and tanks will add more than 5 million gallons of storage to the Boone County and Florence systems. The Boone-Florence Water Commission obtained funding for this project through issuance of revenue bonds, spreading costs over 25 years.

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